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9 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Charles Kirbow, Newly Appointed Chief
Clerk of the Senate Armed Services Committee

1. On this date, I dropped in to see Mr. Charles Kirbow, who has recently been appointed Chief Clerk of the Senate Armed Services Committee following the resignation of Mr. Harry Wingate. Mr. Wingate has entered the political campaign to run as representative from the Second District of Georgia.
2. Mr. Kirbow was quite relaxed and I took the opportunity to give him some background information about the Agency and to discuss several important matters. The primary purpose of my call was to determine when Senator Richard B. Russell was expected to return to Washington. (My information yesterday morning was that the Senator was leaving town today.) Mr. Kirbow said the Chairman had not yet left and might not leave until tomorrow but that he would not venture a prediction as to whether Senator Russell would return to Washington prior to 20 July when the Senate reconvenes. He mentioned that quite unexpectedly Chairman Russell had decided to report out the military pay bill yesterday and, more unexpectedly, called a meeting of the Committee this morning and reported out a series of other bills.
3. I took the opportunity to give Mr. Kirbow some background information regarding the Agency. Having worked in the Navy Legislative Affairs Office, Kirbow knew something of our activities but very little of a specific nature. (There is no doubt but that Kirbow is extremely close to Senator Russell and will exert a very strong influence on him on Committee matters.) I told him that Mr. Warner, who returns from leave next week, planned to see him Monday or Tuesday, but that I wished to extend to him an invitation to come out to the Agency, to meet some of our people and to receive some detailed briefings. (I expected that, with the Senate out, next week would be a good opportunity to have him out.) Kirbow was most appreciative of the invitation and

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said he would be most pleased to make such a visit and might bring Mr. Darden with him. I told him that when Mr. Warner saw him he could make specific arrangements. Kirbow said he appreciated this much lead time since it would give him an opportunity to plan his schedule for next week. He added that next week was an excellent time because after that he had no idea as to when he would be free since he expects the Chairman to move a tremendous amount of legislative material between now and adjournment.

4. I talked with Kirbow about the Director's very strong interest in getting Committee action on our retirement bill. (I pointed out that the House Committee had conducted extensive hearings on the bill and had, in fact, suggested several amendments to tighten up the bill and that these had been made.) I explained to him the basic purpose of the legislation, which he could readily appreciate as he was intimately involved in the Navy "hump" legislation. (I believe a briefing of Kirbow next week would provide us with an excellent opportunity to brief a member of the Committee staff who understands this type of legislation.)

5. During the course of my visit with Kirbow, he received several phone calls. In one of his conversations, he mentioned that they hope to be able to convince Chairman Vinson, House Armed Services Committee, to report out of his Committee one of the bills reported in the Senate yesterday or today. (Presumably this is the Senate version of the military pay bill.) In view of my prior conversation with Russ Blandford of the House Armed Services Committee staff, (see Memo for the Record) I believe we should speak to Blandford immediately to see if we can get Mr. Vinson to agree to act on this Senate bill if the Senate Committee will report out the CIA Retirement Bill. (Mr. Blandford had expressed his strong feeling regarding the necessity for Senate action on our bill this year if we hope to have it passed in the foreseeable future.)

6. I also alerted Kirbow to our session this afternoon with Senator Stuart Symington on the case . I advised him 25X1 that Symington had said he was going to express his indignation to Chairman Vinson, Senator Stennis and Senator Saltonstall. Kirbow commented that,

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as we knew, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] He appreciated my alerting him to this case however. He said if Symington talked with Russell about this, the Chairman would immediately put it in the hands of Darden or himself.

7. Kirbow queried me to some extent regarding past relationships between the Agency and the Committee and specifically asked if I knew why staff participation in these briefings had been limited to Darden. I told him it was my impression that this was an internal Committee decision. Kirbow said he planned to become personally involved in relationships between the Committee and the Agency, adding that he and Darden might "swap off" on some of the hearings. I told Kirbow that certainly we would have no objection to this and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Agency matters with him. The conversation was extremely fruitful and I believe that Kirbow has a genuine interest in the Agency.

[REDACTED]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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